

Art Unit: 2627

ALLOWANCE & EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An Examiner's Amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and /or additions be unacceptable to the applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR § 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this Examiner's Amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Ralph Webb on March 15, 2007.

2. The application has been amended as follows:

- a. In claim 1, line 18^{co}, replace "another" with -- the remaining --;
- b. Remove lines 6-7 " pits are formed ... lead-out area." Completely;
- c. Also in claim 1 lines 11-12 replace "area, and
a third track pitch of the user data area is the same as the second track pitch." with
- area. --;
- d. In claim 21, line 5 replace "a second" with -- the remaining --;
- e. In claim 21, lines 9-10 replace "first pitch, and" with -- first pitch. --;
- f. Also in claim 21 remove lines 11-13 completely.

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3. The following is an Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance:

Claim 1-9, 21 25-26 and 32-34 are allowable over the prior art of record since the cited references taken individually or in combination fails to particularly disclose an optical storage medium which a lead-in area "and lead-in area has two different track pitch". It is noted that the closest prior art, Morita et al. (US patent application 2000/0027869 A1) shows a similar apparatus which has dual track pitch, one in lead-in area and another one in data area. However Morita et al. fails to disclose second track pitch also in the remaining portion of the lead-in area.

4. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the Issue Fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the Issue Fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Contact information

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gautam R. Patel whose telephone number is 571-272-7625. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday from 7:30 to 6.

The appropriate fax number for the organization (Group 2650) where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Dwayne Bost, who can be reached on (571) 272-7023.